IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10, 11, 27 and 28 without prejudice.

Please amend/replace claims 1, 2, 12-17, 20-26, 29 and 30 as follows:

Claim 1. (twice amended) A replacement slip ring assembly for an electric machine, having a rotor with a rotatable shaft being rotatable along a longitudinal axis, a field coil having a pair of coil leads, a fan having a central aperture through which the shaft passes, the pair of coil leads passing through a pair of openings in the fan, the replacement slip ring assembly comprising:

a pair of replacement slip rings longitudinally spaced from the fan, each replacement slip ring having a coupling terminal, said replacement slip rings being secured to said shaft, one of said coupling terminals being secured to one of the pair of coil leads of the coil, and the other one of the coupling terminals being secured to the other one of the pair of coil leads; and

a pair of retaining members for securing the pair of coil leads and the coupling terminals to the fan, wherein said pair of retaining members are ultrasonically welded to said fan; and

wherein said pair of replacement slip rings are secured to the electric machine after an original slip ring assembly is removed from the electric machine and said pair of retaining members provide a means for securing the pair of coil leads and the coupling terminals to the fan in substantially the same location as the pair of coil leads and the coupling terminals of the original slip ring assembly.

Claim 2. (twice amended) A rotor and replacement slip ring assembly having a shaft defining an axis of rotation of the rotor, first and second pole pieces affixed to the shaft for rotation therewith and together defining an interior cavity, a fan secured to either one of the pole pieces, a field-generating coil disposed within the interior cavity, the field-generating coil comprising a plurality of turns of electrical wire, the electrical wire further having a coil lead extending to and being electrically coupled to a lead of a replacement slip ring affixed to the shaft for rotation therewith, the coil lead and the lead of replacement slip ring defining a point of securement, the rotor and replacement slip ring assembly comprising:

a retaining member, said retaining member securing the point of securement to the fan, wherein said retaining member is ultrasonically welded to the fan; and

wherein the replacement slip ring is secured to the rotor after an original slip ring is removed from the rotor, and said retaining member provides a means for securing the point of securement to the fan after the replacement slip ring is secured to the rotor.

Claim 12. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 2, wherein said retaining member secures the point of securement to a portion of the fan, the portion being the location of the securement of a lead of the original slip ring.

Claim 13. (twice amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 2, wherein the field-generating coil includes a pair of coil leads extending to and being electrically coupled to a pair of leads of a pair of replacement said slip

rings to define a pair of points of securement, the pair of points of securement being secured to the fan by a pair of retaining members.

Claim 14. (twice amended) The replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 1, wherein said pair of retaining members each comprise: a receiving area being configured and dimensioned to cover the pair of coil leads and the pair of coupling terminals when said retaining members are secured to a surface of the fan.

Claim 15. (twice amended) The replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 14, wherein said pair of retaining members further comprise:

a pair of end portions depending outwardly from a pair of leg portions, said pair of leg portions being secured to each other at one end, and said pair of leg portions defining said receiving area, said end portions being secured to the surface of the fan.

Claim 16. (amended) The replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 15, wherein said pair of end portions each have a heat staking portion.

Claim 17. (twice amended) The replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 1, wherein said pair of retaining members secure the pair of coil leads and the coupling terminals to a portion of the fan, the portion comprising a portion of an original heat staking location of the original slip ring assembly.

Claim 20. (amended) A rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 2, wherein said retaining member defines a receiving area being configured and

dimensioned to cover the point of securement when said retaining member is secured to a surface of the fan.

Claim 21. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 20, wherein said retaining member further comprises:

a pair of end portions depending outwardly from a pair of leg portions, said pair of leg portions being secured to each other at one end, and said pair of leg portions defining said receiving area, said end portions being secured to the surface of the fan.

Claim 22. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 21, wherein said pair of end portions each have a heat staking portion.

Claim 23. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 22, wherein said retaining member is constructed out of a polymer.

Claim 24. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 23, wherein the fan is constructed out of a polymer.

Claim 25. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 20, wherein said retaining member is manufactured by an injection molding process.

Claim 26. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 21, wherein said leg portions define a triangular receiving area.

Claim 29. (amended) The replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 1, wherein said pair of retaining members secure the pair of coil leads and the coupling terminals to a portion of the fan, the portion of the fan comprising a portion of an original heat staking location of an original point of securement of the pair of coils leads and a pair of original coupling terminals of a pair of original slip rings, wherein said replacement slip rings are replacements for the pair of original slip rings.

Claim 30. (amended) The rotor and replacement slip ring assembly as in claim 2, wherein said retaining member secures the point of securement to a portion of the fan, the portion of the fan comprising a portion of an original heat staking location of an original point of securement of the coil lead and an original lead of an original slip ring, wherein the replacement slip ring is a replacement for the original slip ring.